

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 00738 141051Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00
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CINCPACREPPHIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 0738

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: MARCOS AGAIN COMMENTS ON BASES

REF: MANILA 373

1. MARCOS GRANTED AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO UPI
JAN. 11 WHICH ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS INCLUDED
THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE BASES. "I HAVE ALWAYS
SAID THAT ONE OF FOUR OPTIONS IS TO RENOUNCE THE
TREATIES IF IT CAME TO A POINT THAT WE DECIDED IT WAS
IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST TO DO SO," MARCOS SAID.
HE ADDED THAT "CLOSURE OF THE BASES WOULD MEAN FIRST
OF ALL THAT THE ECONOMIC FALLOUT FROM THE BASES WOULD
BE TERMINATED. IN TERMS OF DOLLARS, THIS HAS BEEN
ESTIMATED TO ANYWHERE FROM \$120 MILLION TO \$100
MILLION (PER YEAR)."

2. MARCOS REPORTEDLY ALSO SAID THAT THE SECOND MAJOR
EFFECT WOULD BE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT. "HOWEVER,
WHEN THE TRADE AGREEMENT (WITH THE US), MORE COMMONLY
KNOWN AS THE LAUREL-LANGLEY AGREEMENT, TERMINATED ON
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PAGE 02 MANILA 00738 141051Z

JULY 3, 1974, THERE WERE DIRE PREDICTIONS OF THE
EFFECT THAT WOULD HAVE ON OUR ECONOMY. BUT THESE
PREDICTIONS HAVE NOT COME ABOUT. I PROPOSE TO LEAVE
THESE MATTERS TO THE STUDIES (ON THE BASES) BEING MADE."

3. MARCOS REPORTEDLY ALSO SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD INCLUDE ALL MILITARY

AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY, THE MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT AND THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TREATY. ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY CONTACT WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, MARCOS REPORTEDLY SAID HE WAS "AFRAID THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION IS TOO BUSY RIGHT NOW TO BOTHER WITH THE PHILIPPINES, BUT IN GOOD TIME I WOULD THINK THEY WOULD COME AROUND TO ATTENDING TO THE PHILIPPINES."

"I DON'T SEE ANY SUDDEN CHANGES IN POLICY. SECURITY MATTERS, I PRESUME, WILL NOT GET TOO MUCH PUBLICITY. WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT IS ON THE MIND OF PRESIDENT (ELECT) CARTER," MARCOS REPORTEDLY SAID.

4. COMMENT: WHILE WE DO NOT HAVE THE COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT, MARCOS' COMMENTS TO UPI JAN. 11 APPEAR TO HAVE APRALLELED HIS REMARKS OF JAN. 7 TO THE UP LAW ALUMNI. WE CAN EXPECT THESE THEMES TO BE ECHOED IN THE DAYS AHEAD. THE BASIC QUESTION IS WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN MARCOS' ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BASES. ON BALANCE, WE THINK NOT. THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE SEVERAL GOOD REASONS WHY HE HAS TURNED TO A STIFFER PUBLIC LINE. HE HAS PROBABLY BEEN DOING A SLOW BURN SINCE EARLY DECEMBER WHEN ROMULO'S CONFUSING PERFORMANCE IN MEXICO CITY LEAKED TO THE PRESS MAKING THE PHILIPPINES LOOK LIKE A MENDICANT WHOSE PRIMARY CONCERN IN THE WHOLE COMPLEX ISSUE WAS MONEY. THERE WAS LITTLE IN THE PUBLIC RECORD FROM THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THAT EFFECTIVELY COUNTERED THIS PRESS LINE. MARCOS MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY NETTLED BY THE PUBLIC APPEARANCE

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PAGE 03 MANILA 00738 141051Z

OF THE PHILIPPINES, SITTING HOPEFULLY AND DUTIFULLY, WITH HAT IN HAND, WHILE THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION PREPARED TO REVIEW THE OPTIONS AND DECIDE WHERE IT WANTED TO GO. THE RELEASE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT SEEMED TO PROVIDE THE SPARK FOR MARCOS TO DO WHAT HE PROBABLY WAS EVENTUALLY GOING TO DO ANYWAY. HE HAS NOW SERVED PUBLIC NOTICE THAT THE PHILIPPINES CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED; THAT THE ENTIRE ISSUE OF WHETHER OR NOT THE U.S. BASES SERVE PHILIPPINE INTERESTS IS UNDER REVIEW; THAT IF THERE ARE TO BE BASES, SOVEREIGNTY MUST BE FULLY RESPECTED AND RENTALS PAID. THIS REAFFIRMATION OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGN IDENTITY, CHARACTER AND HONOR WILL LIKELY BE AN EXPANDING PUBLIC THEME, PROBABLY BLOSSOMING INTO CAREFULLY STAGED "POPULAR DIMENSIONS" WHEN MARCOS APPOINTED LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY BODY (BATASANG BAYAN) MEETS IN MARCH TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER ISSUES. PEERING THROUGH THESE RISING WINDS OF RHETORIC WE CONTINUE TO DOUBT THAT MARCOS IS SERIOUSLY PREPARED TO STRIKE OFF INTO ANY NEW RADICAL DIRECTIONS ON

THE BASES. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WILL BE SEEKING MORE
INFORMATION ON THE SPECIAL STUDIES WHICH MARCOS SAYS HE HAS
ORDERED.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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